

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN**

ANNE GALLAGHER, KATHLEEN
NICOL, SUSAN GALLAGHER-
LEPAK, and MICHAEL
GALLAGHER,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE
COMPANY OF AMERICA and
HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTOR
COMPANY GROUP LLC,

Defendants.

Case No. 22-CV-482-JPS

ORDER

On October 19, 2022, the parties filed a joint motion for entry of a stipulated protective order. ECF No. 37. The parties also included a copy of their proposed protective order. ECF No. 37-1. Protective orders are an exception to the general rule that pretrial discovery must occur in the public eye. *Am. Tel. & Tel. Co. v. Grady*, 594 F.2d 594, 596 (7th Cir. 1979); *Citizens First Nat'l Bank of Princeton v. Cincinnati Ins. Co.*, 178 F.3d 943, 945–46 (7th Cir. 1999). Nonetheless, the Court can enter a protective order if the parties have shown good cause and that the order is narrowly tailored to serve that cause. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c); *Citizens First*, 178 F.3d at 945; *Jepson, Inc. v. Makita Elec. Works, Ltd.*, 30 F.3d 854, 858 (7th Cir. 1994) (holding that, even when parties agree to the entry of a protective order, they still must demonstrate the existence of good cause).

The instant motion for a protective order must be denied because it is devoid of any factual basis on which the Court could find good cause. The motion does not describe the nature of the confidential or sensitive information that might be divulged, or who might be injured by the disclosure of this information. The parties merely vaguely describe the information at issue as “confidential” and/or “sensitive.” ECF No. 37 at 1.

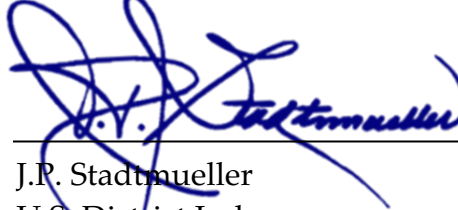
The Court would entertain a renewed motion that presents an appropriate factual predicate suggesting that good cause warrants entry of a protective order in this case.

Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED that the parties’ joint motion for entry of a stipulated protective order, ECF No. 37, be and the same is hereby **DENIED without prejudice.**

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 20th day of October, 2022.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.P. Stadtmueller", is written over a horizontal line.

J.P. Stadtmueller
U.S. District Judge